

Message Text

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12
ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 NASA-04 L-03 ACDA-19

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NASA/G:KUPPERMAN (DRAFT)

NASA/E:DILLER FOR WILLIAMS (DRAFT)

NASA/I:KFMAUTNER

NASA/TD:BROCKETT (DRAFT)

NASA/I:SEDOYLE SAFGC:MR. ALLEN

OSD/ISA/FMRA:CDR GRUNAWALT

L/PM:TBOREK OSD/GC:MR. KONAN

L/OES:SBURTON OSD/ISA/IA:CAPTGOODI

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R 262229Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

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CSAF

AFSC ANDREWS AFB

AFETR PATRICK AFB

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, US, BF

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF NASA MOBILE LASER RANGING

STATION AT GRAND TURK

PARIS PASS NASA REP

1. NASA PLANS TO LAUNCH A GEODYNAMIC EXPERIMENTAL OCEAN

SATELLITE (GEOS-C) NEAR END OF YEAR TO DEMONSTRATE FEASIBILITY

OF UTILIZING ALTIMETRY TO MAP SEA SURFACE

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TOPOGRAPHY AND WAVE HEIGHT AND TO PERFORM EXPERIMENTS WITH

OBJECTIVES OF IMPROVING GRAVITY FIELD MODELS AND ORBIT DETERMINATION TECHNIQUES.

2. SATELLITE BORNE RADAR ALTIMETERS MUST BE PRECISELY CALIBRATED TO ENSURE MAXIMUM SCIENTIFIC RETURN. TO PERFORM CALIBRATION, NASA PLANS TO INSTALL LASERS AT FOUR LOCATIONS WHICH FORM TWO NEARLY EQUILATERAL TRIANGLES. LOCATIONS SELECTED ARE WALLOPS ISLAND STATION (VIRGINIA), BERMUDA, EASTERN TEST RANGE IN FLORIDA, AND GRAND TURK. THIS GEOMETRIC CONFIGURATION OPTIMIZES TRACKING RESULTS AND IS THEREFORE, CRITICAL IN OBTAINING SATELLITE POSITIONAL ACCURACY. LASERS WILL PRECISION TRACK GEOS-C AND MEASURE SATELLITE POSITION FROM WHICH ITS ALTITUDE CAN BE DETERMINED FOR COMPARISON (CALIBRATION) WITH ALTIMETER'S

MEASUREMENTS.

3. DUE TO SEVERE IMPACT OF CLIMATIC CONDITIONS SUCH AS CLOUDS WHICH WILL OBSCURE LASER TRACKING SYSTEMS, LOCATION AT GRAND TURK, IN ADDITION TO FORMING SECOND TRIANGLE OF STATIONS, ALSO INCREASED BY FACTOR OF THREE TO FOUR PROBABILITY OF NASA BEING ABLE TO VIEW SPACECRAFT.

4. NASA PROPOSES INSTALLATION OF FACILITY AT EXISTING AFETR GRAND TURK STATION. AFETR HAS INDICATED TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT INSTALLATION OF THIS NATURE.

5. INSTALLATION WOULD CONSIST OF APPROXIMATELY TWO TRAILERS. ONE TRAILER WOULD HOUSE LASER TRACKING SYSTEM AND SECOND WOULD CONTAIN AIRCRAFT RADAR TO INSURE SAFE OPERATIONS IN VICINITY OF INSTALLATION. APPROX FIVE PEOPLE, NASA CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES WITH RCA, WOULD OPERATE EQUIPMENT.

6. CONSTRUCTION TIME OF APPROXIMATELY 12 WEEKS AT SITE WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAVE AREA TO PARK TWO TRAILERS AND PROVIDE FOR POWER, WATER, SEWAGE AND COMMUNICATIONS.

7. PLANNED OCCUPANCY DATE ABOUT JANUARY 1975 INITIALLY, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND PERIODICALLY FOR ONE TO TWO YEARS OR LONGER DEPENDING ON LIFETIME OF SATELLITE. FUTURE NASA GEODYNAMIC SATELLITE ACTIVITIES COULD POSSIBLY MAKE PERIODIC OCCUPANCY DURING REMAINDER THIS DECADE DESIRABLE.

8. WEST INDIES DEFENSE AREAS AGREEMENT (TIAS 4734) WOULD PROVIDE APPROPRIATE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF PROPOSED STATION (AT LEAST

THROUGH 1977). HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF ARTICLE 2, AGREEMENT APPEARS DOUBTFUL BASIS FOR PROPOSED NON-DEFENSE RELATED FACILITY IN ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC HMG CONCURRENCE. THEREFORE, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DESCRIBE PROPOSED FACILITY TO FCO AND SEEK HMG CONCURRENCE IN ESTABLISHMENT OF NASA INSTALLATION WITHIN EXISTING DEFENSE AREA GRAND TURK UNDER TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN 1961 DEFENSE AREAS AGREEMENT. IF HMG IS AGREEABLE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF FACILITY THEIR CONCURRENCE SHOULD BE RECORDED IN EXCHANGE OF NOTES.

9. FOLLOWING IS TEXT UPON WHICH EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO BASE TEXT FOR EXCHANGE OF NOTES:

QUOTE: EXCELLENCY:

I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO RECENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE DESIRE OF MY GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH ON A TEMPORARY BASIS A MOBILE LASER TRACKING STATION WITHIN THE EXISTING DEFENCE AREA ON GRAND TURK ISLAND UNDER THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS, MUTATIS MUTANDIS, SET FORTH IN THE WEST INDIES DEFENSE AREAS AGREEMENT OF FEBRUARY 10, 1961, IN FORCE BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. BASED UPON THESE DISCUSSIONS, IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF MY GOVERNMENT THAT SUCH ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED TEMPORARY STATION IS ACCEPTABLE TO HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT.

THE PROPOSED STATION WOULD BE OPERATED BY, AND UNDER THE AUSPICES OF, THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA) IN CONNECTION WITH A SCIENTIFIC SPACE PROGRAM, AND WOULD BE ENGAGED IN THE CALIBRATION OF THE ALTIMETER ABOARD THE NASA GEODYNAMIC UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPERIMENTAL OCEAN SATELLITE-C (GEOS-C), TO BE LAUNCHED IN LATE 1974. GEOS-C IS AN EXPERIMENTAL SATELLITE DESIGNED TO PERFORM GEOSCIENCE EXPERIMENTS IN SEA SURFACE TOPOGRAPHY MEASUREMENTS AND ORBIT/GRAVITY FIELD DETERMINATION.

THE STATION WOULD CONSIST OF APPROXIMATELY TWO TRAILERS HOUSING THE NECESSARY LASER AND RADAR EQUIPMENT, MANNED BY A COMPLEMENT OF APPROXIMATELY FIVE PERSONS, EMPLOYED BY NASA'S CONTRACTOR, RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA (RCA). THE STATION WOULD BE MANNED PERIODICALLY FOR ONE TO TWO YEARS BEGINNING IN JANUARY 1975, DEPENDING UPON THE LIFE-TIME OF THE GEOS-C SATELLITE. SHOULD IT LATER PROVE DESIRABLE OUR GOVERNMENTS MAY BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT PROVIDE FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE OPERATION OF THE STATION

BEYOND JANUARY 1977.

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR EXCELLENCY'S CONFIRMATION OF MY
GOVERNMENT'S UNDERSTANDING THAT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT
CONCURS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TEMPORARY NASA
MOBILE LASER TRACKING STATION AS DESCRIBED ABOVE WITHIN
THE UNITED STATES DEFENCE AREA ON GRAND TURK ISLAND
ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THE WEST INDIES DEFENSE AREAS
AGREEMENT OF FEBRUARY 10, 1961.

ACCEPT, ETC. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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TAGS: TSPA, US, BF, NASA
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005